

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **Congressman John Conyers, Jr.**

**Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 22, 2002**

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### **Conyers Criticizes GOP for Failure to Fund Election Reform**

Congressman John Conyers Jr., Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement today after Congress adjourned without appropriating any funds for election reform:

"The Republicans failure to appropriate funds means that for another year, election reform remains an empty promise. This is strike two this year. On August 13, 2002, President Bush vetoed a \$400 million down payment for election reform; and today, Congress leaves town without appropriating a single cent. If we fail to act in January, our nation will be down for the electoral count.

This means that the states will have no money for new machinery, no money for voter education, no money to assist with disabled voters, and no money to assist with language minority voters. When the 2004 election rolls around shouldn't be surprised if we repeat the voting travesty we saw in Florida in 2000.

With great fanfare we all celebrated the enactment of landmark election reform law last month. As a matter of fact, when I stood at the White House signing ceremony, President Bush declared, 'the vitality of America's democracy depends on the fairness and accuracy of our elections.' But that bill was premised on our appropriating \$4 billion in funds, including some \$2 billion this fiscal year. This is less than 1/1000th of our overall budget, and our unwillingness to fund this amount calls into question our nation's commitment to democracy. Without funding this bill is an empty shell and the President's signature is a cruel and empty promise."

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